

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A process for the separation of biomass from lactate and lactic acid-containing fermentation product present in a fermentation broth by:

a) subjecting the fermentation broth to an alkalifying step;

b) adding one or more flocculants; and

c) separating the biomass flocs from the lactate and lactic acid-containing fermentation broth, wherein the fermentation broth is subjected to an alkaline residence time of between 1 second and 15 minutes or above 8 hours, the alkaline residence time being the time between increasing the pH to above 10 and separating the biomass flocs.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the mixture obtained in the alkalifying step is aged at a temperature between 25-100°C for a period of time up to 1000 hours.

5. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the aging time is above 8 hours ~~and up to 1000 hours.~~

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The process according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein the alkalifying residence time is between 1 second and 15 minutes.

8. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the flocculant is orthophosphoric acid.

9. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the flocculant is a polymeric flocculant.
10. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein steps a) and b) are conducted with agitation.
11. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein steps a) and b) are combined.
12. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the alkalifying step is conducted in-line.
13. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein step b) is conducted in-line.
14. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the biomass precipitate is subjected to one or more washing steps and one or more additional alkalifying and/or flocculant addition steps, followed by separation of the biomass precipitate.
- 15-20. (canceled)

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